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May 4

COUNTRY: Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT: Russian Postal Censorship Section, UGOML V, 20B

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1. Shortly after the German capitulation in May 1945, the NKVD office in Tashkent (Asiatic Russia) selected and interrogated thoroughly twenty Romanians from various Soviet labor battalions in Tashkent. Around 13 May 1945, the group boarded a train, ostensibly headed for Romania, and arrived six days later in Bakovka, a suburb of Moscow.

2. On arrival in Bakovka, a Soviet officer informed the group that they were now members of UGOML V of the SMCH, the Soviet Military Censorship section. The Polish Censorship Group, the Estonian Censorship Group, the Bulgarian Censorship Group, and other Baltic groups were also stationed in Bakovka. All mail from Soviet military personnel in Soviet-occupied Germany was collected and sorted according to language, except mail in the Russian language.

3. Mail in the Romanian language was sent to the Romanian Censorship Group in Bakovka, which was officially designated as Censure 93-E. No instruction was given the censors other than to condemn those letters of military personnel writing to their friends or relatives, containing the following essential elements of information:

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- a. The standard of living in Germany is higher than in any Soviet Republic.
- b. The food available in Germany is better than the food at home.
- c. The farmer in Germany is better off than the farmer on a collective farm in Russia.
- d. Political dissatisfaction in general.

Writers of condemned letters were not reported, as orders were simply to prevent such letters from reaching their destinations. The group was supervised by two or three sergeants who made periodic checks on mail passed by the censors.

Members of the Romanian Group were billeted in an old monastery in Bakovka, could move about freely, but were not allowed to divulge the nature of their work. If asked by the native population, they were simply to state that they were students living at the monastery.

4. The office of the GRUB, OTDEL V, in Moscow was located in a narrow street off Feliks Dzerzhinsky Square. The officer in charge of OTDEL V, in May - June 1945, was Lt. General SHAFADINSKI and the Deputy Commander, Lt. Colonel CUTTERMAN. Present Chief of OTDEL V in Moscow is Major General SPINOV. The Romanian Military Censors were sent to the Moscow office, on one occasion, to receive proper credentials.

5. Early in June 1945, Lt. Colonel CUTTERMAN appeared in the office of CENTURA OF-B to interview all German speaking members of the group. He declared a pressing need for German speakers for the new Military Censorship Office in the Russian Zone of Germany. German speakers in the Romanian Group were transferred to Neuenhagen near Berlin soon thereafter, and the group increased shortly from eight to thirty German speaking personnel of different nationalities. For training, the censors were given impounded mail to read (written before the surrender of Germany, but not forwarded because of breakdown of the German communication system at the end). No action was taken and none of the impounded mail was delivered to the addressees.

6. The headquarters of OTDEL V for the Russian Zone of Germany is located in Berlin-Friedrichshain, Eufeland Strasse 38-39. The Commanding Officer is Captain RASILIGOV. The personnel officer is Captain KALINOV and the political officer is Captain RAVDITZK. Senior Lt. PLETKAKO is in charge of the report writing section, assisted by two German-speaking sergeants. The headquarters of the Russian Military Censorship in Germany is consolidating all reports and intercepts coming

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11. The Russian military censors in Germany receive:
1800 RM monthly, and officers' rations (Figure 2)
consisting of:

25 cigarettes daily
20 grams of biscuits daily
25 grams of sugar daily
40 grams of butter daily

In addition they receive three meals daily. Food and quarters are provided free of charge.

12. Essential elements of information with the appropriate action to be taken, as required by the Postal Censorship Section, STAB V of the MDE, are listed below:

<u>Information</u>	<u>Action to be Taken</u>
1. Attitude of German population concerning the dismantling of German factories by the Soviet authorities.	Confiscation of letter
2. Attitude of the German population concerning dismantling of German factories by U.S., British, and French	No action
3. Criticism of the behavior of Russian troops.	Confiscation
4. Criticism of the behavior of Allied troops (excepting Soviet)	Summary of information (not confiscated).
5. Complaints of the German population about the food situation in the Russian Zone of Germany.	Confiscation.
6. Complaints of the German population concerning the food situation in other zones of Germany (US, British, French).	Summary of information (not confiscated).
7. The attitude of the German population concerning the political parties in Germany.	Summary of information. Only if negative attitude is expressed regarding the SED or KDP is letter confiscated.

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8. Intention of Germans residing in the Russian zone or Sector to emigrate to foreign countries. Confiscation.
9. Whereabouts of Nazi criminals. Preparing of summary of information, and forwarding of same to AGB for investigation. Confiscation of letter.
10. Existence of foreign espionage and intelligence agencies. Same as above
11. Existence of underground Nazi organizations. Same as above
12. The German attitude concerning occupational policy (US, Russian, British, and French). If negative, confiscation of letter.
13. The German attitude concerning the Russian administration of Germany. If negative, summary of information forwarded for investigation. Confiscation of letter.
14. Attitude of the German population concerning the administration of other non-Russian military governments. If negative, confiscation of letter.
15. The reaction of the German population concerning the deportation of German scientists and specialists to Russia. Confiscation.
16. Epidemics in the Russian or other zones of occupation in Germany. Summary of information (not confiscated.)
17. Complaints of the German population concerning the German administration. Summary of information (not confiscated).
18. Complaints of the German population about lack of coal and fuel in the Russian or other zones of Germany. Summary of information (not confiscated).
19. Information concerning fraternization between Russian military personnel and Germans. Summary of information (not confiscated).

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20. Information concerning illegal border crossings. If ~~summary~~ of information and confiscation.
21. The attitude of the German population regarding the Nuremberg Trials. Summary of Information (not confiscated).
22. Complaints of the German population about the high taxes or land reform. Confiscation.
23. General political attitude of the German population. Summary of information (not confiscated).
24. Mentioning of inventions of military nature. Summary of information and investigation.
25. Employment of former FG's in the German administration in the Russian Zone. Summary of information.
26. Employment of former FG's in the German administration in other zones or sectors. Summary of information.
27. Activities of former Wehrmacht members. Summary of information and investigation.
28. Expression of anti-Soviet feelings. Summary of information and investigation.
29. Attitude of the German population concerning the future of Germany. If despair about the future of Germany is expressed or fear of Communism - confiscation.

NOTE: The first eight items are believed of special interest, as they show Soviet policy seldom expressed in such clear terms.

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